



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: February 8, 2007

Editorial Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. Apologies to Phil Worby (QC) for the misspelling of his name. The minutes were approved. Tom Cady (HC-V), NJ ELAC Chair, asked everyone to introduce his/herself as there were a lot of new faces.

New Business:

Method Update Rule: The pre-publication document was signed January 16, 2007 and the Federal Register has signed off on it but the document has not yet been published. The changes will be in effect 30 days after publication. The NJDEP will review the implementation schedule.

Deb Waller (NJDEP-OQA) went over the draft rule's many changes providing copies for all stating should anyone wish a copy they could contact her at the OQA and she would send one. The table presented at the meeting was only Part 136; labs must go online to look at the Drinking Water changes. One of the most notable changes is the elimination of EPA 150.1 as the method for pH. Labs should review the list for their certified methods and update. OQA is working on the update for the renewal packages. OQA will be happy to answer questions concerning the changes.

Site Remediation: Dave Barsky (NJDEP-SRP) stated the Technical Regs were due for a re-up in 2008. Changes to the Data Deliverables, including eliminating the Reduced Data Deliverables (RDD) and making all Full Data Deliverables (FDD) submitted to the state in .pdf (text and image) format are being considered with .pdf bookmarks and markers would be required in the reports. SRP is trying to get rid of paper, but everything will probably be FDD.

The ELAC body presented several arguments that the smaller labs would have problems with this requirement.

Tom Cady (HC-V), NJ ELAC Chair, asked about a summary in front of the FDD and a tabular summary for the QC. This will be an all electronic submittal to SRP only. Each CD would also be required to include a copy of the Adobe reader used with the data deliverables submitted. It was brought up that Adobe can read all previous formats.

ELAC members were advised to forward issues concerning data deliverables to Greg Toffoli (NJDEP-ODQ)

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA) stated renewal updates should begin going out March 1, 2007. How the EPA updates will affect this is still unknown.

Harvey Klein (GSL) stated the biggest problem with the certification process is that it takes a very long time – 6 months and sometimes up to 9 months. He inquired as to what steps can

be taken to streamline the process. It was proposed a subcommittee be formed to review the following: 1) have the labs and the OQA discuss roadblocks to certification; 2) what can labs do to facilitate the process, and 3) what procedures can the NJDEP implement to speed up the process. Sharon O'Toole (MAEL), Harvey Klein (GSL) and Jamie Yates (Accutest) volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Joe Aiello (NJDEP-OQA) said he would get back with the names of people from OQA who would serve on the subcommittee.

PT Program: Notices for Solid/Hazardous Waste went out last week. Drinking Water closes February 22, 2007; the make-up study will be in April. Suspension notices for Wastewater will go out in March.

An associate from Environmental Resource Associates (ERA) may come to the next ELAC meeting.

TNI: Greg Tomcovich (Accutest) reported a meeting was held in January. Board of Director nominees were being accepted. The new draft standards are on the website. A memo of understanding with the EPA re: accreditation has been presented. The next meeting will be in August.

NJQLs: Joe Aiello (NJDEP-OQA) reported the NJDEP is not sticking to the time frames stated at last month's (ELAC) meeting.

Greg Tomcovich (Accutest) stated NJQL is labor intensive with a significant impact on labs. The current N.J.A.C. 7:18 gives the NJDEP the authority to collect data. It was noted that using the median to determine NJQLs, half the labs would be disqualified for each parameter. An example of the 624 list was used where labs would be able to report some compounds and disqualified for others.

Joe Aiello (NJDEP-OQA) stated the lab programs would determine the limits.

Bioassay: National standards are being looked at. There was an article in *Effluents* (the NJWEA quarterly magazine) about a facility in NJ.

Sludge (Biosolids): Anthony Pilawski (NJDEP) reported his department is preparing the guidance document, which was sent to subcommittee members on January 16, 2007 for return by the end of January. However, he noted it was not too late to provide comments.

Communications and OQA Website: Sharon O'Toole (MAEL) has contacted Tom Chipecta (NJDEP-OQA), the person in charge of the OQA website, about his attending the ELAC meeting to get feedback from the labs about what they would like to see on the website as well as what he needs from the labs. Tom was unable to attend the February meeting, as he will be out of town but promised to attend the March meeting.

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water: John Shevlin (NJDEP-BSDW) reported the database is looking at an April 1, 2007 start-up, with program implementation being staggered. The vast majority of labs are already registered. He encouraged all labs to register and get a user ID and password for the E2 website.

Harvey Klein (GSL) reported the system is a “challenge” as it keeps crashing, (test) labs cannot enter data on a regular basis and it takes a long time to enter any data.

Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW) clarified some issues, providing handouts. BSDW is not looking to establish a new PQL for residual chlorine for coliform testing. Subpart H (surface water) requires labs to show a (total) residual chlorine of 0.05 ppm. UCMR2 approval is through the EPA, not the NJDEP.

PWTA: John Shevlin (NJDEP-BSDW) stated PWTA Rules are currently being evaluated with some changes, such as the perchlorate MCL rules, collecting two samples for lead testing and arsenic levels in Warren and Sussex counties.

New Business:

SRP: Greg Toffoli (NJDEP-ODQ) reported they are still working on the TPH/QAM issue. June is still the date for the elimination of 418.1. Method 1664A does not enter into the picture for SRP. If a laboratory is certified for QAM-025 would be grandfathered into any new TPH method for the SRP.

A very rough draft of the NJSCC has been prepared and may be ready at the end of March. Methanol may not be allowed, becoming a non-preferred method, as the VOA limits will be lowered.

Lab Certification Fee Proposal: Joe Aiello (NJDEP-OQA) reported the OQA has completed their part of the review and sent it on to legal. The complexity of the categories has changed with new categories and a miscellaneous section for each program. These changes would not go into effect until FY09.

Annual Meeting: Tom Cady (HC-V), NJ ELAC Chair, reported Mike Furrey (Agra) sets up these meetings for Rutgers and would help him do the same for ELAC. It was suggested from the body “piggy backing” these meetings, perhaps with NJWEA (New Jersey Water Environment Association). Joe Aiello (NJDEP-OQA) suggested using these meetings/sessions to “energize” the lab community and holding them on their own would be preferable. Phil Worby (QC) asked the goal of these meetings, also suggesting keeping them separate from the WEF (Water Environment Federation). It was asked if the focus would be narrow, concerning only wastewater. Tom stated he would draft something and e-mail it out.

There were no other new issues. The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for 09:30 a.m. on March 8, 2007 – 5th Floor Conference Room.

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